

Discovering Emotions in Italy

Inspired by my book

By Adriana Coelho

Synopsis - *Discovering Emotions in Italy*

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Charlotte Ashford, a brilliant young London lawyer, has built her career defending the powerful, but beneath her polished surface lies a soul searching for justice, truth, and love. When she defends her childhood friend, the arrogant politician William Richardson, she begins to doubt whether her profession truly serves justice. Her doubts deepen when her father, Oscar, a retired judge, receives a call from an old colleague: Charlotte's grandmother, Carlota, whom she has never met, is gravely ill in Venice.

Determined to confront her family's hidden past, Charlotte embarks on a journey to Italy. On the flight, she encounters the spirit of Charles, a wealthy businessman whose body rests in the cargo hold. Through his confession of greed, emptiness, and sudden death, Charlotte faces the fragility of life and the power of divine forgiveness. This mystical encounter marks the beginning of her transformation.

In Venice, Charlotte finally meets Carlota, the proud matriarch who once forbade her son's marriage to Elizabeth, Charlotte's mother, out of prejudice and pride. Frail but dignified, Carlota reveals she converted to Islam and found peace in the Qur'an. She asks for forgiveness, offering Charlotte a sacred text that becomes a source of reflection and strength.

As Charlotte explores Venice, she is guided by Aurora, a compassionate young woman devoted to the homeless, and her mother Nina, Carlota's loyal housekeeper. Aurora becomes a mirror for Charlotte's empathy, reminding her that justice is not only found in courtrooms but also in kindness.

Romance blooms when Charlotte meets Romeo, a charming restaurateur. Their passion flourishes against the backdrop of gondolas and Venetian sunsets, but Charlotte's heart shatters when she witnesses Romeo's deep prejudice against Muslims. Their love collapses, and Charlotte confronts him with painful truths. Soon after, Romeo learns from his mother Hanna that his real father was a Palestinian Muslim, killed for his love, while Hanna herself had been disowned by her Jewish family. This revelation forces Romeo to face the very heritage he once despised.

Heartbroken, Charlotte finds unexpected love with Lorenzo, a journalist who shares her values and passion for truth. They marry in Venice, building a tender and inspiring life together. But tragedy strikes again: Lorenzo is diagnosed with terminal cancer and dies in Charlotte's arms. Grief consumes her, yet she finds solace in the memory of Carlota, who had already passed away leaving forgiveness as her greatest legacy.

At the cemetery where both Carlota and Lorenzo rest, Charlotte unexpectedly meets Romeo once more. He has changed: humbled by Hanna's death and enlightened by her story, he now seeks forgiveness for his past prejudice. Slowly, Charlotte and Romeo rediscover each other. Love blossoms again, not as an illusion but as a choice rooted in truth, humility, and acceptance.

Meanwhile, William, the once corrupt politician, arrives in Venice in search of Charlotte. Guided by Aurora's example, he learns the meaning of service and begins his own path of redemption.

In the end, Charlotte and Romeo marry in Venice, surrounded by family and friends. As they sail under the moonlight, Charlotte reflects on her journey: discovering emotions is not only about love but about faith, loss, forgiveness, and the courage to embrace life in all its complexity.

Characters - *Discovering Emotions in Italy*

Main Characters

- Charlotte Ashford (Protagonist)
A young London lawyer in her 30s, daughter of Oscar and Elizabeth. Brilliant, ethical, and sensitive, she begins her journey as William's defender but transforms after confronting her family roots in Italy. She represents the search for truth, forgiveness, and true love.
- Oscar Ashford (Father)
Charlotte's father, a retired British judge of Italian descent. He carries the pain of being separated from his mother Carlota because of prejudice against Elizabeth. He represents tradition, justice, and reconciliation.
- Elizabeth Ashford (Mother)
Charlotte's mother, owner of a small restaurant in London. A humble woman, once rejected by Carlota. She embodies forgiveness, faith, and dignity.
- Carlota (Grandmother)
Charlotte's grandmother, the Italian matriarch. Proud and rigid in the past, she later converted to Islam after years of solitude. Now sick and weakened, she seeks forgiveness and reconciliation with her family. She represents redemption, spirituality, and legacy.
- William Richardson (Politician)
Charlotte's childhood friend, now a corrupt British politician accused of fraud. His arc goes from arrogance to humility, transformed after meeting Aurora. He represents corruption, downfall, and redemption.
- Charles (Spirit)
The spirit of a businessman who died in a car accident, met by Charlotte on her flight to Venice. He confesses his sins and searches for divine forgiveness. He is the catalyst for Charlotte's first deep spiritual awakening.
- Romeo (First Love Interest)
A Venetian restaurant owner. He falls in love with Charlotte but reveals prejudice against Muslims. After discovering his mother's past and his true roots, he

changes and seeks forgiveness. His arc is intolerance → revelation → reconciliation.

- Lorenzo (Journalist, Second Love Interest)
A passionate Italian journalist, in love with truth and justice. He marries Charlotte and represents her purest love, but dies of cancer, teaching her about love, loss, and resilience.
- Aurora (Friend & Social Worker)
Nina's daughter, a young Venetian woman devoted to helping the homeless. She becomes Charlotte's close friend and later helps William transform into a better man. She represents compassion and service.
- Nina (Housekeeper & Caretaker)
Carlota's loyal housekeeper. A kind, maternal figure who connects Charlotte to everyday Venetian life. She represents kindness, loyalty, and support.
- Hanna (Romeo's Mother)
A Jewish woman from Israel. She fell in love with a Palestinian man, was disowned by her rigid father, and lost her lover to violence. Later she married an abusive Italian man. Her story reveals hidden truths and changes Romeo's perception, inspiring forgiveness.

Supporting Characters

- Judge in London - Presides over William's trial. Represents human law.
- Lawyers & Journalists - Symbolize society's judgment and public pressure.
- Luca - Carlota's Venetian employee, who welcomes Charlotte and guides her.
- Venetian Staff, Waiters, Tourists - Populate Venice, grounding the setting in realism.
- Doctors - Diagnose Lorenzo's illness and mark the theme of mortality.
- Priest & Imam - Appear in funeral and reflection scenes, symbolizing interfaith harmony.

ACT I - Departure & Awakening

Scene 1 - INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The oak doors creak open. The courtroom is packed with journalists and politicians.

CHARLOTTE ASHFORD (30s), elegant and confident, stands beside her client WILLIAM RICHARDSON (40s), a British politician accused of corruption.

JUDGE

This court will hear the case of The People v. William Richardson.

Charlotte rises, steady.

CHARLOTTE

Your Honor, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, accusations are not proof. Today, we will separate rumor from reality.

William smirks arrogantly. Charlotte notices, uneasy.

Scene 2 - EXT. COURTROOM STEPS - DAY

Reporters swarm Charlotte and William. Cameras flash.

Charlotte warns William quietly.

CHARLOTTE

Justice postponed does not mean justice denied. God will judge what men cannot.

William shrugs, careless.

Scene 3 - INT. ASHFORD HOUSE - NIGHT

Charlotte enters. Her father, OSCAR ASHFORD (60s), retired judge, is deep in thought, holding a photo of his mother CARLOTA.

OSCAR

I received a call today... from London. Your grandmother in Italy... she is gravely ill.

Charlotte is stunned.

CHARLOTTE

I've never even met her.

Scene 4 - INT. ELIZABETH'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Her mother, ELIZABETH (50s), reads the Bible at an empty table. Charlotte approaches.

CHARLOTTE

Mother, are you ready to see her again?

Elizabeth sighs, memories heavy.

ELIZABETH

She despised me. I was poor. She forbade my marriage. But... forgiveness is not for her. It's for me.

Scene 5 - INT. CHARLOTTE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte books her flight online. She kneels to pray.

CHARLOTTE (V.O.)

God, guide me to Italy. Let this be not just a journey, but a revelation.

Scene 6 - EXT. HEATHROW AIRPORT - DAWN

Charlotte drags her suitcase through the bustling terminal. She boards.

Scene 7 - INT. PLANE - MID-FLIGHT

Charlotte sits by the window. Suddenly, a man in a white suit appears in the empty seat: CHARLES (50s), calm, otherworldly.

CHARLOTTE

I didn't see you come in.

CHARLES

I've been here all along. My body... rests below, in the coffin.

Charlotte freezes.

CHARLOTTE

You mean... you're dead?

Charles smiles gently.

CHARLES

Not dead. Traveling to heaven.

Scene 8 - INT. PLANE - CONTINUOUS

Charles confesses his life of greed, women, cars, empty wealth.

CHARLES

And then, a car crash. In one second... it was all gone.

Charlotte listens, tears forming.

CHARLOTTE

God is merciful, Charles. He will forgive.

Suddenly, turbulence. A radiant light fills the cabin – only Charlotte sees.

CHARLES

They're calling me. The angels.

He fades into light. Charlotte clasps her hands, trembling.

Scene 9 – EXT. VENICE AIRPORT – DAY

Charlotte steps into the arrivals hall. Sunlight streams through glass. She inhales, Venice alive with voices and movement.

CHARLOTTE (V.O.)

This is not just a trip. It's the beginning of something greater.

FADE OUT.

ACT II - Discovery & Conflict

Scene 10 - EXT. WATER TAXI - DAY

Charlotte boards a sleek Venetian water taxi. The city shimmers across the lagoon. She leans out, mesmerized by domes and canals.

Scene 11 - INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Charlotte checks in at the Bellavista Hotel. She phones LUCA, her grandmother's employee.

CHARLOTTE

I just arrived. Please give me her address.

Scene 12 - EXT. GRANDMOTHER'S VILLA - EVENING

A beautiful ivy-clad villa along the canal. Charlotte knocks. LUCA greets her warmly.

LUCA

Welcome to Venice, Charlotte. She's waiting for you.

Scene 13 - INT. VILLA FOYER - EVENING

CARLOTA (70s) descends a grand staircase. Elegant, frail, but dignified.

CARLOTA

My granddaughter... how you look like Matteo, your grandfather.

Charlotte runs into her arms. Tears flow.

Scene 14 - INT. VILLA PARLOR - NIGHT

Carlota pours coffee. The air heavy with unspoken words.

CARLOTA

I wronged your mother. I forbade her marriage to Oscar... because she was poor.

CHARLOTTE

The past can still be healed, Grandmother.

Scene 15 - INT. VILLA LIBRARY - NIGHT

Carlota opens a mahogany bookcase. She takes down a Qur'an, holding it reverently.

CARLOTA

I converted to Islam. This book gave me peace.

Charlotte listens, surprised yet respectful.

Scene 16 - EXT. VILLA GARDEN - NIGHT

Charlotte sits under stars, reading the Qur'an her grandmother gave her. The verses calm her.

CHARLOTTE (V.O.)

Justice, forgiveness, mercy... the same truths I search for in court.

Scene 17 - INT. VILLA - MORNING

Carlota plays piano. Sunlight streams through lace curtains. Charlotte listens in awe.

CARLOTA

Music says what words cannot. Tell me, did the Qur'an touch your heart?

Charlotte nods, deeply moved.

Scene 18 - INT. VILLA - DAY

NINA (40s), Carlota's loyal housekeeper, arrives with her daughter AURORA (20s). They embrace Charlotte warmly.

AURORA

I work with the homeless in Venice. Come with me tomorrow.

Scene 19 - EXT. VENICE STREETS - DAY

Charlotte follows Aurora through narrow alleys, distributing food to the homeless. Charlotte is touched by Aurora's kindness.

Scene 20 - EXT. VENETIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Charlotte dines with Aurora and Nina. A charming restaurateur, ROMEO (30s), approaches.

ROMEO

Welcome, bella. Venice is not complete without love.

Charlotte blushes. Sparks fly.

Scene 21 - MONTAGE - CHARLOTTE & ROMEO

- Walking along canals.
- Gondola ride at sunset.
- Laughing in Piazza San Marco.

Romance blooms.

Scene 22 - INT. ROMEO'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Charlotte notices Romeo refusing service to a Muslim family.

CHARLOTTE

Why did you do that?

ROMEO

They bring trouble. Not in my restaurant.

Charlotte is shocked, heartbroken.

Scene 23 - INT. VILLA - NIGHT

Charlotte confides in Carlota.

CHARLOTTE

He's prejudiced. I can't love a man who hates.

Carlota nods sadly.

CARLOTA

Prejudice is poison. Love cannot survive in it.

Scene 24 - INT. ROMEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Romeo's mother, HANNA (60s), reveals her past.

HANNA

I was Jewish, from Israel. I loved a Palestinian man. He was killed... my family disowned me. Your real father was Muslim.

Romeo listens in shock, tears forming.

Scene 25 - EXT. BRIDGE OVER CANAL - NIGHT

Charlotte ends things with Romeo.

CHARLOTTE

I can't stay with someone who rejects what is part of himself.

She walks away, devastated. Romeo is left in silence.

Scene 26 - EXT. NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY

Charlotte meets LORENZO (30s), a journalist. They connect instantly.

LORENZO

Sometimes truth is not in the court... but in the heart.

They smile, chemistry undeniable.

Scene 27 - MONTAGE - CHARLOTTE & LORENZO

- Walking along Rialto Market.
- Reading books together.
- Kissing on a gondola at night.

Love blossoms.

Scene 28 - INT. VILLA - DAY

Carlota, weakened by illness, gathers the family. Oscar and Elizabeth arrive from London.

CARLOTA

Elizabeth... forgive me. For my arrogance. For forbidding your love.

Elizabeth hesitates, then embraces her. Tears.

Scene 29 - INT. VILLA BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carlota in bed, frail. Charlotte holds her hand.

CARLOTA

Perdão is the greatest inheritance.

She closes her eyes. Passes away peacefully.

Scene 30 - EXT. VENETIAN FUNERAL - DAY

Carlota's funeral. Gondolas draped in black glide across the lagoon. Charlotte, Oscar, Elizabeth, Aurora, Romeo, and Lorenzo mourn.

FADE OUT.

ACT III - Loss, Forgiveness & Renewal

Scene 31 - EXT. VENETIAN CAFÉ - DAY

Charlotte and Lorenzo sit at a sunny terrace. He takes her hand.

LORENZO

Marry me, Charlotte. Let Venice be our forever.

Charlotte smiles, tears of joy.

Scene 32 - INT. CHURCH IN VENICE - DAY

Wedding bells ring. Charlotte and Lorenzo exchange vows. Family and friends applaud. Romeo watches from a distance, regretful.

Scene 33 - INT. LORENZO & CHARLOTTE'S HOME - DAY (MONTAGE)

- Shared breakfasts.
- Charlotte writing, Lorenzo typing articles.
- Laughter, happiness.

Scene 34 - INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The doctor delivers grim news.

DOCTOR

Lorenzo has cancer. Advanced.

Charlotte's face falls. Lorenzo grips her hand.

Scene 35 - INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Charlotte sits by Lorenzo's bed. He caresses her cheek.

LORENZO

Promise me you'll keep living, even when I'm gone.

Tears stream down her face.

Scene 36 - EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Charlotte exits alone, consumed by grief.

Scene 37 - EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Charlotte kneels between two graves: Carlota and Lorenzo. She prays silently.

Scene 38 - EXT. CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

Romeo appears, carrying flowers.

ROMEO

Charlotte... my mother Hanna passed away last week.

Charlotte looks at him, surprised, softened.

Scene 39 - INT. CEMETERY BENCH - DAY

Romeo sits beside her.

ROMEO

I judged what I didn't understand. But Hanna... she told me of her love for a Muslim man. I carry his blood. I was blind.

Charlotte listens, eyes wet.

ROMEO (cont'd)

I'm sorry, Charlotte. For everything.

Scene 40 - EXT. VENETIAN CANALS - SUNSET

Charlotte and Romeo walk together. Silence at first, then hands slowly touch.

Scene 41 - EXT. VENETIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Romeo reopens his restaurant. A Muslim family dines inside. He greets them warmly. Charlotte watches, proud.

Scene 42 - EXT. AURORA'S SOCIAL PROJECT - DAY

William Richardson, humbled, helps Aurora distribute food.

WILLIAM

I stole from the poor once. Now I give back. Maybe redemption is possible.

Aurora smiles at him, hopeful.

Scene 43 - EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Charlotte visits the graves again. Romeo joins her.

CHARLOTTE

I lost so much here. But maybe love is also born here.

Romeo takes her hand.

Scene 44 - INT. VENETIAN CHURCH - DAY

Charlotte and Romeo marry. Aurora, Oscar, Elizabeth, Nina, William, and friends celebrate.

Scene 45 - EXT. GONDOLA - NIGHT

Charlotte and Romeo kiss under the moonlight, Venice glowing around them.

CHARLOTTE (V.O.)

Discovering emotions is discovering life.

FADE OUT.